

April 26, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



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Re: U.S. Non-Provisional Utility Patent Application
Appl. No.: 09/515,860; Filed: February 29, 2000
For: **Electronic Commerce Transactions Within a Marketing
System That May Contain a Membership Buying Opportunity**
Inventors: Daniel A. ARGANBRIGHT *et al.*
Our Ref: 00368.0029.US01

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

1. Information Disclosure Statement;
2. Form PTO-1449 (20 pages) with 302 attached references; and
3. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the filing date of these documents and returned to our courier.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date *or* before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, no statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee is required.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038. If extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those otherwise provided for herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby

April 26, 2000

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petitioned, and any fees therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No.08-3038; attorney docket number 00368.0029.US01. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy W. Riffe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'R'.

Andrea G. Reister (Reg. No. 36,253)

Timothy W. Riffe (Reg. No. 43,881)

Enclosures

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PA
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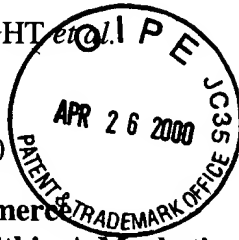
In re application of:

Daniel A. ARGANBRIGHT et al.

Appl. No. 09/515,860

Filed: February 29, 2000

For: **Electronic Commerce
Transactions Within A Marketing
System That May Contain a
Membership Buying Opportunity**



Art Unit: To be assigned

Examiner: To be Assigned

Atty. Docket: 00368.0029.US01

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Information Disclosure Statement

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material

submitted herewith. It is further understood that the Examiner will consider information that had been cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in a prior application relied on under 35 U.S.C. § 120. 1138 OG 37, 38 (May 19, 1992).

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee is required.
- ☐ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance.
 - ☐ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - ☐ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
 - ☐ c. Attached is our Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ 3. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. It is hereby requested that the Information Disclosure Statement be considered. Attached is our Check No.

_____ in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i).

- ☐ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ 4. Relevance of the non-English language document(s) is discussed in the present specification.
- ☐ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a corresponding foreign application. An English language version of the foreign search report is attached for the Examiner's information.
- ☐ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- ☒ 7. The Examiner's attention is directed to co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/515,860, filed February 29, 2000, which is directed to related technical subject matter. The identification of this U.S. Patent Application is not to be construed as a waiver of secrecy as to that application now or upon issuance of the present application as a patent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited application and the art cited therein during examination.
- ☐ 8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in Application No. _____, filed _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and to indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038 referencing docket number 00368.0029.US01.



Respectfully submitted,

Andrea G. Reister (Reg. No. 36,253)

Timothy W. Riffe (Reg. No. 43,881)

Date: April 26, 2000

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